



INSPIRING FUTURES
IN ENGINEERING

Apprenticeships compared to T-levels

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What will be covered

- An over view of how T-levels work
- Challenges and advantages of T-levels
- An overview summary of challenges and advantages of T-levels.
- An overview of how apprenticeships work
- Challenges and advantages of apprenticeships
- An overview summary of challenges and advantages of apprenticeships
- An overall comparison of T-levels and apprenticeships
- A conclusion for the comparison between apprenticeships and T-levels





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T-levels overview



Introduction to T-levels

- T-levels are mainly class room based with some practical hands on learning.
- Commonly 2 year courses.
- Marked with an overall pass, merit or distinction.
- First year has 17 units that are assessed in 2 separate tests.
- Second year has 1 practical assessment that is a week long.
- Examples of units include Maths, Science, health and safety, Materials and properties, mechanical and electrical principals, and business.



What T-levels consist of

- Minimum of 315 hours in the work placement
- 80% classroom learning and 20% industry placement
- All classroom based learning in the first year and mainly hands on workshop learning in the second year.
- Class room learning consists of 17 units
- Usually mechanical, electrical or mechatronics



How T-levels are assessed

- Written exams
- Employer-set projects
- Practical assessments
- Coursework and assignments
- Performance during work placement



Possible paths after T-levels

- Level 3 apprenticeships and higher after level 3
- University (maths A-level qualifications likely will be needed)
- Directly go into employment
- Higher technical qualifications



Advantages of T-levels

- Strong employer involvement
- Significant workplace/ real world experience
- Well suited to students with a clear career interest
- Recognised by many universities and employers
- Good for prep before starting an apprenticeship or high level career
- Good to use as a first experience of engineering before going into the sector



Challenges of T-levels

- Isn't fully recognised by all.
- Must go in at a level 3 apprenticeship if that's the chosen route.
- They are intense and involve the most amount of guided learning hours compared to all other level 3 qualifications.
- Industry placements can be demanding to arrange and complete.
- Not many universities will accept T-levels when applying.
- You will still have to find jobs and apprenticeships after the course
- Less workplace experience





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Apprenticeships overview





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Introduction to apprenticeships

- Practical way of learning for an engineering job or can be in other fields
- Variable lengths of time depending on level.
- Practical assessments with some written assessments.
- Can be applicable to many areas of engineering.
- Mixture of mainly hands on work with some class room based learning
- Often leads to a permanent role in the company if it goes well.





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What apprenticeships consist of

- 80% in hands on employer work and 20% in an education facility.
- Paid work with an average salary of £19,706
- Learning more so from experience rather than reading.



How apprentices hips are assessed

- End point assessments (practical observations, technical interviews/discussions, work based reports, written tests)
- The gateway (a milestone that the apprentice has to meet)
- Regular progress reviews
- Portfolio evidence





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Possible paths after an apprenticeship

- Transition into full time employment.
- Internal promotions.
- Complete a higher level apprenticeship after.
- Go on to higher education at university.
- Specialist certifications.





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Advantages of apprenticeships

- You can earn money while you learn with no debt.
- Extremely significant hands on experience.
- Build professional networks easily and early on.
- Often a permanent employment is offered after.
- Apprenticeships give highly recognised qualifications.
- High employability after completing.
- There is a lot of career progression.
- Can gain transferable skills and industry connections.



Challenges of apprenticeships

- Apprenticeships are extremely competitive.
- Less flexibility if you don't end up liking engineering.
- Balancing work and study can be challenging.
- There will be a lot of workplace responsibility.
- There is slower academic progress.
- There is limited flexibility due to fewer holidays and full time work and education.
- People may find it difficult to adapt to working culture.



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Comparison between apprenticeships and T- level



Feature	Engineering T-level	Engineering apprenticeship
Duration	2 years	Typically 3-4 years but can vary
Level	Level 3	Anywhere from level 2-7 depending on the program
Learning	Around 80% class room and 20% industry placement	Around 80% work and 20% off the job training
Salary	No salary	Paid employee
Work experience	Minimum 315 hours (45 days)	Full time employment throughout the course
Qualification	Equivalent to 3 A levels	Apprenticeship plus industry qualification
University progression	Yes with UCAS points	Possible if you do a higher or degree apprenticeship
Best for	Students that are looking for technical education before employment.	Students that are ready to start in employment immediately

How each option suits different people

T-levels	Apprenticeships
Classroom learners	Practical learners
Partial hands-on learners	Hands on learners
People who are looking to progress to higher education (university)	People looking to progress in job positions and responsibility
	People well suited to problem solving and working with technology
	People who want to earn while they learn

T-level summary

- They are well suited to those who look for class room learning but still want to have the hands on experience.
- They can often lead to a permanent position if they go well.
- Less work place experience in comparison to apprenticeships.
- T-levels aren't full recognised by all employers and educational providers.
- Not a very popular choice due to the level of hands on work.





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Apprenticeship summary

- Apprenticeships are suited to those who enjoy practical learning and problem solving while working with technology.
- They are a route into a skilled profession.
- You get paid while also gaining valuable experience.
- They require commitment, resilience and being able to balance social life and work.
- For Most the long-term opportunities and positives outweigh the challenges.



Comparison summary

- Both T-levels and apprenticeships suit different styles of people that are looking for different career progression paths.
- T-levels are better for people looking to progress to higher education such as university and apprenticeships are better for people looking to progress in the workplace.
- Apprenticeships have less negatives surrounding them in comparison to T-levels.
- T-levels are easier to find and get into due to how new they are and how unknown they are



Conclusion

- Apprenticeships are better suited to those who want to get a headstart into working life to start being paid as early as possible.
- Apprenticeships also help to build connections as early as possible to get a hand into areas of engineering that interest you.
- Apprenticeships have a long lasting impact on your working life.
- T-levels are relatively new so the only impact on working life is a wide spread knowledge that doesn't go fully in depth to areas.
- T-levels are for those who want to learn in class and apprenticeships are for those who want to learn from experience.

My experiences

I am currently completing a t-level course at college and while doing so I am completing an internship with REAGIT who are an apprenticeship provider.

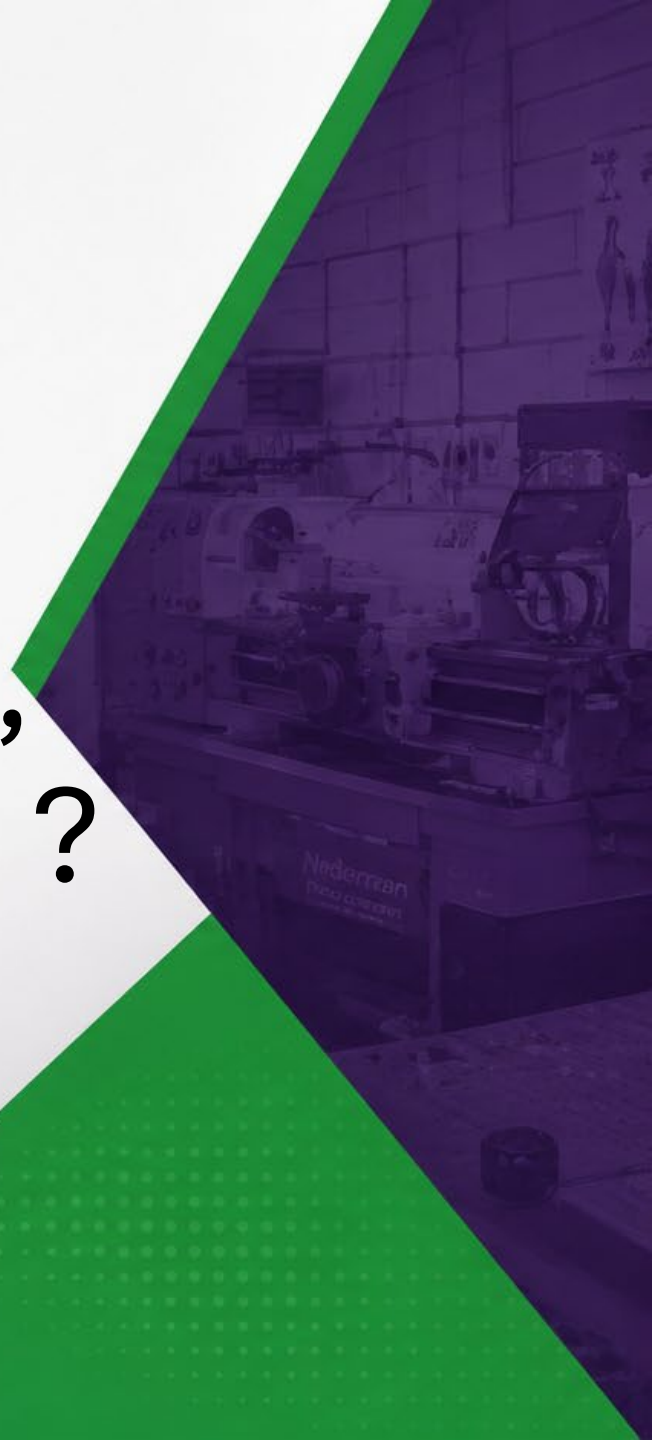
From my time at REAGIT I have had so many amazing experiences that have taught me a lot about apprenticeships. Along with learning a lot I have had the opportunity to experience what life is like when completing an apprenticeship. I have been able to get a chance to talk to many people in the engineering industry and while doing so I have gained valuable contacts in the industry that will have a long lasting positive impact.

I would Highly recommend apprenticeships to anyone interested and I would also highly recommend REAGIT as a provider.



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Thank you for listening,
Are there any questions ?



Information gained from

- REAGIT UK LTD
- University of Bradford
- GOV.UK
- National Careers Service
- Institute for apprenticeships and technical education
- Engineering council
- UCAS
- T-levels- official student website
- T-levels support